

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 03505 292013Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 SS-15 SSO-00 PRS-01 NSCE-00  
/036 W

-----103209 292018Z /66

O 292005Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0953

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3505

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: SHUM, OVIP (TODMAN), PA

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS SINCE TODMAN VISIT

REF: STATE 205889

1. THE MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS IN PARAGUAY SINCE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S VISIT HAVE BEEN THE EXTENT TO WHICH PUBLIC ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS. EVER SINCE THE VISIT THE MEDIA INCREASINGLY CONTINUE TO PLAY UP DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA IN OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL EDITORIALS IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS OF ALL PERSUASIONS DISCUSSING HUMAN RIGHTS, NOT ONLY IN A LIMITED SENSE BUT IN THE BROADER TERMS OF INCLUDING ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND THE RIGHTS OF PARTICIPATION.

2. IN CONCRETE TERMS, THE PROCESS OF TURNING OVER TO JUSTICE QUICKLY THE MOST RECENT GROUP OF SUSPECTED SUBVERSIVES (ARRESTED IN JULY) IS CONTINUING. ALTHOUGH THE IMPARTIALITY AND ABSENCE OF ABUSES IN THIS PROCESS MAY BE SUSPECT, IT IS FAR BETTER THAN PREVIOUS PRACTICE OF HOLDING POLITICAL PRISONERS INDEFINITELY WITHOUT CHARGES. HOPEFULLY IT CAN PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HANDLING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

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3. FINALLY, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE ABLE TO VISIT SPEEDILY WITH JULY DETAINEES AFTER PRESS, WITH HERETOFORE UNACOSTUMED BOLDNESS, REPORTED THAT VISITS HAD BEEN DENIED.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, PROGRESS REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ASUNCIO3505  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 205889  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS SINCE TODMAN VISIT  
**TAGS:** SHUM, OVIP, US, PA, (TODMAN, TERENCE A)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009